



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Walla Walla District

News Release

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UPDATE: schedule changes for 'rooster tail' displays

BOISE, Idaho – The schedule for Lucky Peak's "rooster tail" water discharge displays this weekend has been changed, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials announced today.

"Because of changes in weather and snow melting rates, and irrigation demands, we've decided to increase the time for the discharge display today (Friday)," said Joyce Dunning, the Corps' operations manager at Lucky Peak Dam. "All other times will remain the same."

The display schedule includes four opportunities to view the historic outflow phenomenon:

Friday, May 23 – 2 to 9 p.m., previously scheduled for 4 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 24 – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, May 25 – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Monday, May 26 – 4 to 7 p.m.

Dunning noted that spring flows seldom allow four discharge events, making this year's series of "rooster tail" displays rather unique.

The water used to create the displays comes from flows in excess of what is needed for power generation at full capacity, Dunning added.

The "rooster tail" discharge comes through the dam's outlet slide gates, nicknamed "flip buckets," which send water dozens of feet into the air, creating an arch of spray into the Boise River. With the exception of routine testing, this outlet has not been operated for display since May 2006 due to lack of available water. Depending on lake surface elevations, the "rooster tail" has been observed reaching heights up to about 150 feet.

The "rooster tail" displays typically attract large viewing audiences. To get there from Boise, travel east on Interstate 84 for about 2 miles, take the state Highway 21/Gowen Road exit (Exit 57) toward Idaho City for about one-tenth of a mile, turn left onto East Gowen Road/ Highway 21 for about 6.5 miles and follow the signs to Lucky Peak Dam.

Parking areas within direct view of the powerhouse are located at Sandy Point State Park or Discovery State Park, operated by Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. A four-dollar facility-use fee is charged by Idaho Parks and Recreation. Visitors who don't mind walking about a quarter-mile can park for free at Foote Park, a Corps-operated facility just across the dam. Parking is limited and traffic congestion is expected. Parking will not be allowed along Highway 21, or along the access road to Sandy Point, or on top of Lucky Peak Dam.

The Corps discourages river recreation at this time because of high flow velocities and extremely cold water temperatures. Keep safety in mind – keep children and pets away from the edges of high-flowing rivers and streams, and beware of unstable riverbanks and irrigation ditches.

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